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Montana (ASUM)

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4-1-2020

### Montana Kaimin, April 1, 2020

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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# MONTANA KAIMIN

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Students navigate challenges and changes of the coronavirus pandemic

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04.01.2020

Cover illustration Lindsey Sewell



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. It does not condone or encourage any illegal activities. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, "Qe'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message," or "paper that brings news."

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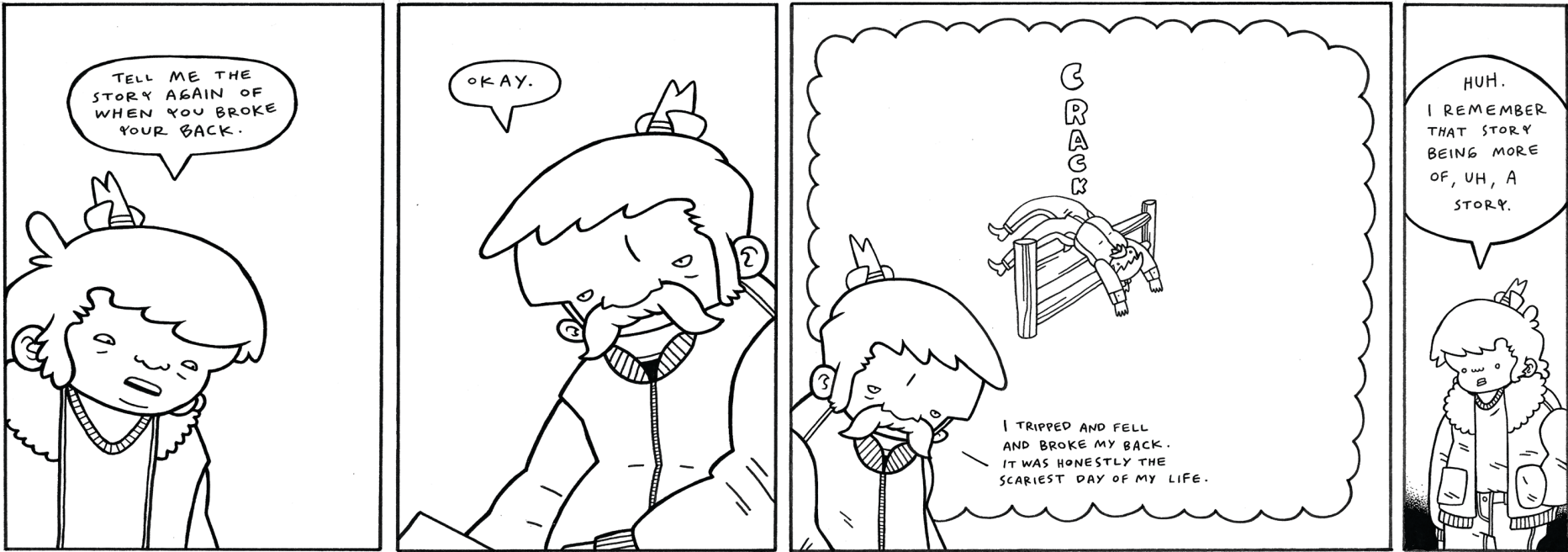
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## KAIMIN COMIC



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EDITORIAL

UM needs to inform students with care, not fear & paranoia

The news is more uncertain than usual. Information we have now could be, and likely is, drastically different from tomorrow morning. Everyone is trying to adjust to this new reality. And UM’s administration is no exception.

Given the circumstances, the University is doing a good job. Even before classes were moved to remote instruction, the administration was communicating with faculty members and students abroad and working with information as it changed. When the time came to decide what to do about instruction before spring break started, UM did the right thing by deciding to follow the trend set by other universities across the country. They asked students to stay home, for their own safety and the safety of their communities.

But the UM administration slipped up in a big way.

On the evening of Sunday, March 22, all students living in residence halls on campus received an email from UM Housing. In bold, red caps lock, students were told to make plans to check out of their residence halls as soon as possible or inform Housing they had nowhere else to go. Housing even suggested that if students had friends who

might not be able to leave, “consider taking them home with you.”

The email informed students their Griz-Card access would be turned off at 8 a.m. only two days later.

Students living on campus, especially those without another place to go, were scared and confused. Sure, there was an option for students to inform Housing that they needed to stay in their dorms, but it’s a detail easily overlooked when the subject line of a University email reads “URGENT - Move Out of Residence Halls.”

UM Housing followed up later in the evening, clarifying that students were not being evicted, and they had the option to stay.

Provost John Harbor followed up in an email Monday afternoon, apologizing for the “misstep”.

The upcoming weeks are going to be confusing. They are going to be new, and they are going to be uncertain. And what students need now, more than ever, is accurate, informative, professional information. Here’s to hoping that our student email inboxes won’t be receiving any bold, red text on Sunday evenings in the weeks to come.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Refund the student fees we aren’t using

Dear Provost,  
Thank you for the consideration, but this measure seems to have a very sharp unintended consequence unless I am unaware of something.

If a student gets an A grade, they of course would rather keep the A grade and show that they were worthy of that grade.

If a student gets a B grade, they would be inclined to also keep the grade since most programs beyond the undergraduate level require a 3.0 GPA.

If a student gets a C grade, they would naturally be inclined to choose CCR and be lumped together with those who received an A or B grade. This natural choice would then lead anyone reading the transcript to assume that the student received a C grade and not A or B. Then any CCR would likely be ignored by any graduate program or employer. So this logical conclusion does not do anything to help students affected by the extraordinary circumstances brought by this global pandemic emergency.

Something that the school could do to help is place a curve on everyone’s grade. Perhaps a 5% increase across the board? Something like that would make more sense to me as a student and would more clearly reflect the outcome of the stress from this event on my grade.

Another action the school could do to help students during these stressful times would be to refund students some of the extra fees dedicated to services that we are mostly not using right now such as:

- Parking Permit: \$121.00
- Transportation Fee: \$42.00
- Equipment Fee: \$25.00
- UC Fees: \$138.00
- Campus Recreation Fee: \$123.00
- Athletic Fee: \$73.00

Not to mention all the toilet paper that we as students would normally be using on campus could go to use at our dwellings where we are currently “attending classes.”

- SHANE ENZENSPERGER

UM TO OFFER STUDENTS CREDIT/NO CREDIT GRADING OPTION, PAGE 7

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

			6		7		2	
	5		8			3	1	
				1		5	4	
5		2		8		6		
8				4				2
4			3			8		
			5	7			6	
7		3						5

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

3	9	4	2	7	1	8	5	6
1	8	7	6	5	3	4	2	9
5	2	6	4	9	8	3	1	7
6	1	5	9	3	2	7	8	4
2	7	3	8	6	4	1	9	5
8	4	9	7	1	5	2	6	3
4	6	1	3	8	9	5	7	2
9	3	8	5	2	7	6	4	1
7	5	2	1	4	6	9	3	8

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## ASUM CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED

Campaigning for the ASUM election began Monday, March 30. The deadline for senator campaign applications was pushed to April 5. ASUM will be holding a candidate forum April 8 on ZOOM, and elections will be held April 22 and 23 on the UMontana app. (SYDNEY AKRIDGE)

## FIRST COVID-19 DEATHS REPORTED IN MONTANA

Montana had its first death related to COVID-19 Thursday, March 26, just after governor Steve Bullock announced the state's emergency lockdown. The man from Libby was in his late 70's and had just returned from California, according to the Missoulian's reporting. As of March 30, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services reported 171 total confirmed cases in Montana and four deaths related to COVID-19. (SA)

## LIBRARY OFFERING ETEXTBOOKS AND EBOOKS TO STUDENTS FOR FREE

The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library is closed to prevent the spread of COVID-19, but several of its online resources are now free for UM students. Students can now access eTextbooks and eBooks via VitalSource, Cengage Unlimited, Macmillan Learning, the National Emergency Library, RedShelf and Texas Instruments for free during the global pandemic. Due dates for library item renewals and returns have also been extended until the end of the semester. (HELENA DORE)

## STIMULUS PACKAGE PASSED IN HOUSE AND SENATE

Congress passed a \$2 trillion stimulus package, which was signed by president Trump Friday, March 27. This is the largest stimulus package in U.S. history. The Internal Revenue Service will distribute the money to individuals, as well as small business loans. The full amount distributed to individuals will be \$1,200 and an extra \$500 for each child ages 16 and under. Distribution will depend on income. Single adults who make \$75,000 or under, married couples that make a total of \$150,000 or less, and adults who file taxes as head of household and earn \$112,500 or less will receive the full amount. Anyone who is claimed as a dependent will not receive a payment. (SA)

## HOUSING AND MEAL PLAN REFUNDS PROMISED TO STUDENTS LEAVING DORMS

UM Housing is offering students who left residence halls after March 12 partial refunds for housing and meal plans. Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian issued a memo on March 20 directing all Montana University System campuses to provide "prorated refunds, to the extent possible, for room and board to those students who have departed the residence halls and/or canceled meal plans based on recent guidance from the Montana University System regarding the COVID-19 situation." According to UM Housing's website, students who qualify for the refunds should submit a Resident Plans Survey, which was sent out to students' emails on March 22. Once submitted, refund credits will take about a week to be processed, the website states. (HD)



# Quarantine hot tip: Lock it down, people

ALEX MILLER  
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## MARCH 21: UNLOCKED LOCKDOWN

Two unlucky quarantiners found their vehicles broken into early last Saturday. The victims, who both left their doors unlocked, awoke to find that their cars were missing small amounts of change and a few small hand tools from the trunk. "What you're going to see in times like this is that thefts rise," officer Brad Giffin said. "If it's not locked or secured, it's going to be stolen."

## MARCH 22: FRIDAY THE 13TH STRIKES BACK

One University Center goer thought perhaps he had misplaced his MacBook Pro on Friday the 13th, because that's, like, a really unlucky day. After eight days of mulling over what could have happened, the owner determined that the laptop did not just disappear. With newfound confidence, he reported the laptop stolen.

## MARCH 24: LOT H: WHERE BREAK-INS HAPPEN

Not even a locked car and a statewide quarantine could stop a thief from breaking into a student's vehicle in Lot H. According to the police report, the passenger door was pried open, leaving behind some nasty scrapes and dents. A camera and a small amount of money were taken from the vehicle. The marauder apparently suffered from low blood sugar, opting to steal some snacks from the car as well.

## MARCH 26: A LOCK ALWAYS BEATS A SET OF STAIRS

One eagle-eyed bike bandit spied a two-wheeled prize on the third floor of a Lewis and Clark apartment building. The bike was not locked up, because what thief would want to lug the thing down three flights of stairs anyway? The sly bandit apparently had been working on their cardio because it's gone.

# International students hesitant to leave UM during COVID-19 crisis



COURTESY OF PIXABAY

**GRIFFIN SMITH**  
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Stevio Dong watched a couple of friends leave for their home countries after the University of Montana decided on March 12 to move classes online. Dong is from China and decided to stay in Missoula, even as COVID-19 cases escalated across the United States. He and other students would like to have the option of going home.

"A lot of international students are considering going home because it's safer there," said Dong, president of the Chinese Student Association at UM. "But they can't go home. There's not an airline. There's no way to get home."

Many international students have already left, but Dong and others who remain in Missoula worry that staying will put them in more danger.

Dong, whose family lives in Beijing, said he was scared when cases of the novel coronavirus spiked in China. He

remembered living through the 2002 SARS outbreak at age 6 when, 5,000 people in China were infected and more than 300 died.

The COVID-19 pandemic has infected more than 80,000 people in China, but the number of cases in the country are dropping. Beijing only saw 576 reported infections, and at least 411 have recovered, according to research from John Hopkins University as of March 28.

Cases in the United States are rising. According to a New York Times database, the virus infected more than 100,000 Americans in less than a month — more infections overall than any other country in the world.

The effects of the pandemic have already been seen in Montana. More than 100 cases of the virus have been reported, and thousands of state residents tumbled into unemployment. Dong's roommate lost his job near the beginning of spring break, and then went back to live with his family in Indiana.

"Of course I would feel safer in China with my family, and I considered my option to go home," Dong said. "I don't really think going that would be worth it, though."

While many other countries are now statistically safer, Dong and several other international students at UM are struggling to leave the U.S.

Junior Chiao-Chien Chen prepared to leave for her home country of Taiwan immediately after UM decided to move classes online. She had her return paperwork signed by the office of Global Engagement and packed up to leave by March 17.

"My original plan was from Seattle to Taiwan," Chen said. "Because of the canceled flights by the airline, I had to stay in Tokyo for one night."

Major North American airlines like Delta and United Airlines suspended flights to Asia and Europe as passenger counts plummeted. Chen eventually made it to Taiwan, where she recently finished a

mandatory two-week quarantine in her house.

Chen, a junior majoring in management information systems, said adjusting to remote learning has been easy. Despite the distance and time change, she manages to work off of pre-recorded lectures.

"I think this is a good opportunity to train my self-control," Chen said.

Dong also looked into returning home, but found he had to fly through multiple countries to get to China. That seemed risky. Once home, he would have had to spend two weeks in government-mandated self-isolation in a hotel room.

Though he didn't want to go through the Chinese quarantine protocol, he applauded the strict rules that contained the virus in other areas.

"If you take precaution, people are not going to freak out," Dong said. "The U.S. government just can't do the same precautions China has done."



# Montana Governor issues statewide stay at home order



Gov. Steve Bullock delivers his State of the State address in Helena on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017. **FREDDY MONARES | UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE**

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Montana Gov. Steve Bullock banned all non-essential business and gatherings outside residences in the state for two weeks, starting Saturday, March 28. The order, which was announced March 26, is set to last through April 10.

"Montana must act now, before its own rate of infection mirrors that of other states," Gov. Steve Bullock stated in the order. "While the times ahead will not be easy, Montanans have always pulled together in times

of crisis."

The order prohibits all public or private gatherings of any size outside a household or residence.

People are allowed to leave their homes for essential activities like seeking medical care, taking care of others (including pets) and gathering supplies like groceries. They can also go outdoors to walk, bike and practice other recreational activities, provided they abide by social distancing regulations. The order discourages people to engage in activities that could result in injuries to avoid straining

emergency services.

The order permits and urges individuals living in unsafe residences, including victims of domestic violence, to leave and stay elsewhere. All non-essential businesses, including gyms and barber shops, have been required to stop activities, but employees can still work from home. Essential businesses include universities, healthcare, transportation, food banks, grocery stores, take-out and delivery restaurants, gas stations and newspapers.

In an email sent to UM employees, President Seth

Bodnar said the Montana University System is exempt from the order, though it has already switched to online classes.

"With today's announcement from the governor, we will direct all managers across the campus to do everything possible to reduce even further the number of employees who must physically come to our campus to work," Bodnar stated in the email.

The order requires that essential businesses continue practicing social distancing when possible. This includes

maintaining six feet of distance between people. The order also requires that essential businesses set aside hours for vulnerable populations, specifically the elderly.

As of Monday, March 30, there were 171 confirmed COVID-19 cases and four related deaths in Montana, including 12 confirmed cases in Missoula County, according to the Montana Department of Health and Human Services' website.

"I'm heartbroken to learn of Montana's first death due to COVID-19. Montana truly is one big small town-- this

news hits us hard, but we're in this together. My family and I send our love and support to the family, friends, and community of our fellow Montanan," Bullock stated in a tweet.

By March 30, Montana DPHHS announced three more COVID-19 related deaths. Bullock tweeted, "We lost two more Montanans, a total of four, to COVID-19. This is a blow to our statewide community and a heartbreaking reminder to us all that we must continue to do everything we can to slow the spread of this disease."



# UM to offer students Credit/No Credit grading option

ADDIE SLANGER  
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The University of Montana’s Faculty Senate passed a new policy Thursday, March 26 that will give undergraduate students the option to switch to a Credit/No Credit grading system after grades are finalized, according to an email from the Office of the Provost.

The senate passed the policy to ease students’ worries about grade point averages in the midst of changing class formats and syllabi caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,

Provost Jon Harbor said in a campus-wide email. The policy will let undergraduates choose whether they want to receive a traditional letter grade or a credit grade. The choice will not have to be made until after final grades have been posted.

“I am proud that our academic community has developed a solution that can take some pressure off our undergraduates and give them some options in light of the current circumstances,” Harbor stated in the email. “I look forward to a similarly helpful

provision geared toward UM’s graduate students soon.”

The credit-based grades comprise three categories, according to the policy. Complete credit, credit and no credit. Complete credit is equivalent to a C- letter grade and above, credit is equivalent to a D and no credit is an F grade.

Credit grades do not factor into a student’s grade-point average (GPA), but complete credit and credit grades will count toward earned semester hours. Complete credit grades

will also qualify as prerequisites and satisfy both degree and general education requirements at UM, according to the email. A no credit grade does not count toward earned semester hours.

Students don’t need to worry about making any changes now. Instead, the policy designates that all students who choose the Credit/No Credit format will have their transcripts changed by the Registrar uniformly. The transcripts will indicate that the grades were impacted by a “global health emergency.”

Instructors will post grades in

a traditional letter format, and each student will have seven days to decide whether or not they want to choose Credit/No Credit.

UM’s Graduate Council will be meeting to discuss alternate grading solutions, according to Harbor’s email.

STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPTION OF CHOOSING COMPLETE CREDIT/NO CREDIT GRADING UP TO SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THEIR FINAL LETTER GRADE IS POSTED.



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## Study abroad students return home in response to COVID-19

MAZANA BOERBOOM

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Junior Becca Olson was expecting the email asking her to come home after days of quarantine in her small apartment in Greece. But she didn't anticipate how devastating it would feel when UM emailed her on March 13 asking her to return.

"It really hit me hard as I bought my return ticket and realized that I was actually leaving Europe," Olson wrote in an email from Greece. "I'm not mentally ready to go back because I know there's so much left for me here, but I don't have a choice."

The University made the call to bring students home after the Department of State issued a Level 3 Global Health Advisory for U.S. citizens to reconsider travel abroad in response to the rapid spread of COVID-19.

Olson, a UM journalism student, had been in Athens, Greece, since January studying at the American College of Greece (ACG).

She always wanted to travel, she said, to see the world before things (like coronavirus) start to hold her back. She also wanted to take the time and change of scenery to figure out who she wants to be.

"I wanted to focus on myself, forget about my life back in the States and get lost in a country I've only dreamed about visiting," Olson wrote. She said studying abroad had been one of the most gratifying experiences of her life, but it wasn't

always easy.

During her first day in Greece, Olson cried in the bread aisle of the grocery store because she couldn't read any of the labels. The combination of jet lag, recently getting over the flu and the shock of an unfamiliar culture and language overwhelmed her at first.

"The locals in the store probably were like, 'Who the hell is this chick and why is she crying over bread?'" Olson wrote.

"What I'm trying to say is that study abroad is such an amazing time where you learn a lot about yourself, how to handle different situations and how to be comfortable with the uncomfortable. But you have to go through lots and lots of rough patches and hard times to get to that point."

Olson said she felt like Greece had finally become home and she was sad to leave the friends she made there. She said she won't even be able to say goodbye to all of them because of strict quarantine rules.

"It really, really sucks. We all feel like we've been robbed of an experience that we worked so hard to make happen," Olson wrote.

Olson said she takes back every joke she made about quarantine. She and her roommates were stuck in the small apartment with guards posted outside who she said yelled at them every time they went out on the balcony.

"At this point, we don't care if we get yelled at or not because what are they going to do? Deport us?" Olson wrote. "Please, we're trying to go home anyway! It'll just speed up the process."

Olson planned to return home March 24, after her two weeks of quarantine would have been up. But, on March 19 she received an email from ACG with the subject line: "URGENT: ACG UPDATE." She needed to leave Greece before borders were closed and nobody would be allowed to leave. Twelve hours later, she was rushing to the airport. Olson is now home.

Another UM student, junior Haylie Peacock, said her classes were moved online at her host university in Granada, Spain after a professor tested positive for COVID-19. The response was quick, but the preparation wasn't sufficient. She said many professors there can barely work a computer, let alone teach an online class.

Peacock is a media arts and Spanish student who traveled abroad with the help of the Global Leadership Initiative (GLI). She always knew she wanted to travel abroad in college, to experience new cultures and improve her fluency in the Spanish language.

"To have my experience abroad be cut so short is absolutely heartbreaking," Peacock wrote in an email from Spain. "I was



COURTESY OF PIXABAY

just starting to notice my Spanish improving, and had just gotten over the original hump of the making new friends challenge. Granada was beginning to feel like a home away from home."

She received the email from UM at 3 a.m. on March 13, informing her she needed to come home.

"When I found out, I was partially relieved that I had at least had some sort of direction, but it also felt like I had a rock in my stomach," Peacock wrote.

Peacock made plans for a flight that departed just a few days later.

Once back in the U.S., she will finish her courses in Spain online through videoconferencing. This means she will have classes at late hours, like 2 a.m., because of the

time difference.

Both Peacock and Olson said as far as they knew, the University was not planning to reimburse them for the flights home. The Global Engagement Office did ask students to reach out for any concerns about academics, finances or housing.

"UM has been working to assist every student the best we can and every student's situation is different," wrote Donna Anderson, executive director of the Global Engagement Office, in an email on March 25. "Students have been responsible for their return flights home."

Anderson said the office encouraged students to contact their airlines as quickly as possible to change their return

flights. She said the Global Engagement Office is working with the Provost's Office, the chief financial officer and UM Housing to work with students who need assistance.

Peacock said she was allowed to keep all the scholarship money she received for her trip from GLI.

"At the moment, I am just hoping that I can get home," Peacock wrote while still in Spain. "The scariest part of this is being on lockdown in a foreign country, across the world from your family, unsure if your travel plans to get home will make it through."

Peacock said she has since made it home without any major issues.

# ASUM suspends most in person operations due to COVID-19

MAZANA BOERBOOM

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Student groups are being discouraged from traveling or meeting in person for the rest of the semester, as the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) adjusts its operations to respond to the spread of COVID-19.

ASUM is asking groups to suspend nonessential meetings and to not meet in groups larger than 10. The student government also canceled all group funding for travel, according to its FAQ site.

"We've kind of just been told to stay here, stay as healthy as possible," said junior Grace Stephens, co-captain of the UM women's ultimate frisbee team Pillow Fight.

All leaders of student groups that receive ASUM funding received an email on Friday, March 13, informing them about canceled funds and encouraging them to reconsider how, or whether, they should meet.

"Any student group continuing their travel plans is accepting responsibility for their own actions moving forward and acknowledges the potential risk of coming into contact with COVID-19," said ASUM Business Manager Daniel Parsons in the email.

Stephens said the team is disappointed. There were four more competitions the team planned to take part in, all of which were canceled. One would have been the first all-woman frisbee tournament hosted in Missoula.

Regardless, Stephens believes the cancellations are for the better.

According to Stephens, Pillow Fight will continue to meet, but only in groups smaller than 10. The groups will play outside where the air is better circulated. Members of the team still want to be able to see one another and stay in shape. Stephens said she wants to make sure the team still feels like a team. She also wants the team's two remaining seniors to feel supported.

The captains encouraged anyone feeling sick not to participate and requested that players not share water bottles.

Scott Glickman, the co-captain of the men's ultimate frisbee team SmokeJump, said the team isn't holding official practices anymore, though players will likely have optional group tossing at the park in small groups. He said the team will remain in contact, but is avoiding gathering in large groups.

Glickman's team, especially the team's three seniors, were disappointed to have to cancel competitions. However, SmokeJump managed to get funds it spent on a prepaid competition back.

ASUM offered to assist student groups that paid for events requiring travel to obtain reimbursements. Groups can email the ASUM office manager Gwen Coon for help getting money back.

ASUM also closed its offices and will hold all future meetings through video conferencing. UDASH will remain operational, but will only run the green, purple and red lines every 30 minutes, and passengers are asked to enter through the back door. The UM Food Pantry is offering services via grab bags left outside its doors, and ASUM Childcare is closed.

"While children are less susceptible to the effects of COVID-19, they are more likely to spread it to others," ASUM's COVID-19 FAQs page states. "By nature, they engage in more high risk behaviors like spreading mucus and coughing freely."

Senate meetings will also continue over Zoom, but senator office hours have been canceled.

All required forms for elections will still be due, but need to be scanned and submitted via Qualtrics, said ASUM Senator Morgan Corkish in a video on the ASUM Facebook page.

Corkish said there will be consistent updates on the Facebook page regarding the election and how it's changing in response to COVID-19. She encouraged people who are campaigning to pay attention to announcements and to reach out to her if they have any difficulties performing tasks like petitioning.

"We are absolutely willing to work with everyone through this interesting and questionable time," Corkish said in the video. "And just know that as information comes up it's likely that some of these things will continue to be changing."

## MANFIELD DIALOGUES — ONLINE —

SPRING 2020: A NEW DECADE - WOMEN LEADERS AND POLICY MAKERS

**Talks will be offered live via Zoom**  
Check our website for the detailed schedule

**We hope to continue these  
conversations with you virtually  
as we all continue to practice  
social distancing!**

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Michael Legg, director of "Go. Please. Go." poses for a photo inside the Masquer Theatre on Aug. 28, 2019. "Go. Please. Go." was written by Emily Feldman and is presented by Legg and the Montana Repertory Theatre as a part of its seasonal tour. Usually, the MRT tours around the United States, but this year all of its productions are being performed locally, within Montana. **DONAL LAKATUA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

## COVID-19 puts innovative Montana Repertory play on hold

AUSTIN AMESTOY

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The Montana Repertory Theatre's next production was set to bring small audiences into close quarters with actors at a Missoula high school — a combination that led to its postponement in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Repertory Theatre director Michael Legg said the decision to postpone came easily as he thought about his many friends with conditions that put them at high risk for contracting the virus.

"I'm not going to do the show until everyone like them can come and see it safely," he said.

"Back to School" is the third installation

in the "Plays on Tap" series Legg started when he became the theater's director in fall 2018. At Western Cider Co., audiences would board a school bus that would take them to Willard Alternative High School to see five short plays set in various locations around the school.

Legg said postponement, while far from ideal, is easier for plays in the style of "Back to School."

"We're nimble with this kind of short, sight-based stuff in a way that a large production can't be," Legg said.

"Back to School" began rehearsals in February and features just 16 actors in total, 12 of whom are current UM students. There are no complicated props or costumes, and if the actors are still in town when it's safe to gather in groups again, Legg said it would

take just a week of rehearsal to get the show performance-ready.

The five plays were specially commissioned from playwrights across the country, giving the theater the right to perform them when they see fit, according to Legg.

Amirra Patterson, a junior performance major and cast member, said she's frustrated by the postponement, but is just happy "Back to School" hasn't been canceled outright.

"Obviously, it sucks because it creates a big break in our rehearsal schedule," Patterson said. "But honestly, I'm just happy we will still get a chance to perform."

Legg considers the Repertory Theatre lucky, as he knows other non-profit theaters that rely on ticket sales and donors for over

half their income will face difficult decisions as the closures drag on.

"I really believe some theater companies are going to close," he said. "A lot of my friends who are artists are losing gigs."

For now, Legg is using the social distancing mandate to catch up on grant writing and strategic planning for the future of the Repertory Theatre, an opportunity he said is rare in the midst of back-to-back performances during normal seasons.

"Back to School" may one day whisk audiences to the halls of Willard High School. Legg is waiting for that day with high hopes.

"Theater folk are an optimistic folk," Legg said. "The important thing to remember is that the University of Montana is not alone in this."

## Every sign should stay home

We are going to repeat it until we don't have to anymore: Please stay home! Out of ideas for passing the time? We got you.

**ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):** God, normally we would be so snarky with y'all, but it for real super sucks that you're stuck in quarantine during your season. We suppose you could just keep baking bread ... you seem like the type to be baking bread.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):** Just because you don't technically have to get out of bed doesn't mean you should just stay there. Unless you're watching TikToks. Time doesn't exist when you're watching TikToks.

**GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):** Why watch TikToks when you can make TikToks?

**CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):** Take a good hard look at the dishes piling up in your sink. Sure, you have time before your next Zoom class, but who's ever going to know that you've switched to your paper plate reserve?

**LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):** "Shakespeare wrote 'King Lear' while he was in quarantine," you'll say as you try to brainstorm equally creative works of literature in your phone's notes app at 2 a.m.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):** We're only a few weeks in and your apartment is the cleanest it's ever been. If you want to keep impulsively cleaning, you're going to have to get creative. We recommend the windowsills next. Or the floorboards.

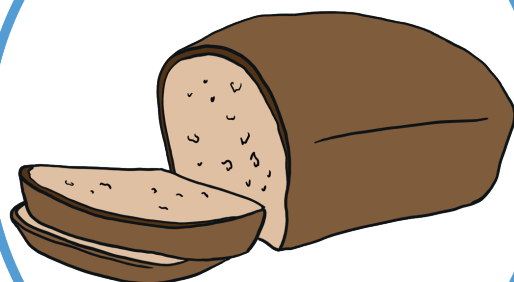
**LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):** God, wouldn't it be so romantic to start sending snail mail to everyone you know? We assume you've already googled it, but just in case you haven't, the CDC doesn't think coronavirus can spread via mail. Break out the fancy stationery your grandma bought you and get to writing.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):** Curate your quarantine playlist and wistfully look out the window like you're in a music video. Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 22): It's hard to stalk your ex's social media when they haven't been going out and doing things. Sucks that you have to be proud of them for effectively social distancing.

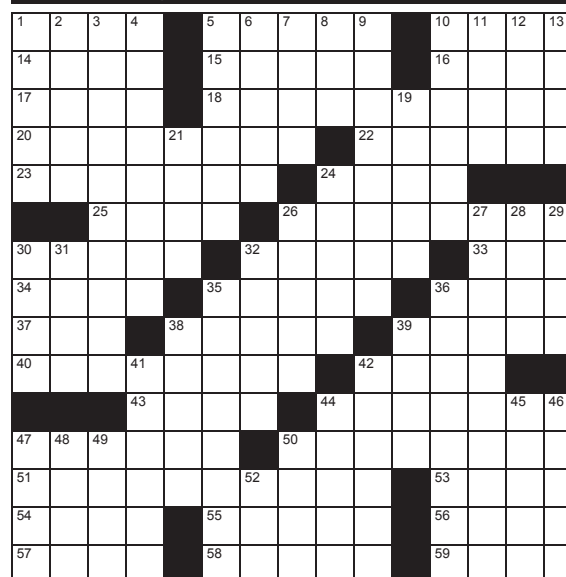
**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19):** Buy yourself a big notepad the next time you go grocery shopping and start communicating with your neighbors exclusively through Taylor Swift "You Belong with Me" window note writing. "You ok?" you'll write, knowing full well that they aren't.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):** Sit yourself down in front of your living room window and yell at people walking by who aren't at least six feet apart. No one walking by? Slide into the Insta DMs of the high school acquaintance posting about their more-than-10-people "apocalypse party."

**PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):** Shit! How are you supposed to flirt with your new crush? Simple. Instagram live. Personal poetry reading. Keep doing it until you see them show up on the viewer list. It's called playing the long game.



### The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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#### ACROSS

- 1 Reading aid
- 5 Crosswise, on deck
- 10 "Now hear \_\_\_!"
- 14 Song for a diva
- 15 Pigeon's perch
- 16 Utterly detest
- 17 Small brook
- 18 Book you can't put down
- 20 Speed
- 22 Mind-boggler
- 23 High cost of leaving?
- 24 Slinky's shape
- 25 Margarita fruit
- 26 Grocery store haul
- 30 Stephen King's home
- 32 Netflix offering
- 33 Sib for sis
- 34 Not tricked by
- 35 Bar mixer
- 36 Urban eyesore
- 37 Till bill
- 38 Soupy "Oliver Twist" fare
- 39 Slug's trail
- 40 Third in rank
- 42 Horsewhip
- 43 Picnic hamperer
- 44 Boastful display
- 47 Part of AWOL
- 50 Like many a rescue
- 51 Place for TB patients
- 53 Tethered toy
- 54 Fox follower
- 55 Flaxlike fiber
- 56 Minute amount
- 57 "Dear" advice-giver

- 58 Pass, as time
  - 59 Soon, to a bard
- #### DOWN
- 1 Newly-hatched insect
  - 2 Animated mermaid
  - 3 Tiny metric volume
  - 4 Trigger was one
  - 5 Skiing specialty
  - 6 Birth surname of Warren and Shirley
  - 7 On pins and needles
  - 8 Bio bit
  - 9 Rapid, as a rise to fame
  - 10 Word before ride or seeker
  - 11 Send to the gallows
  - 12 News tidbit
  - 13 Hospital fluids
  - 19 Band together
  - 21 Command to Fido
  - 24 Object pettily

- 26 Brooklyn's \_\_\_ Island
- 27 Responsibility
- 28 Type of lily
- 29 Rotunda feature
- 30 Like some points
- 31 Green Gables girl
- 32 Lament a loss
- 35 Turncoats
- 36 Neighbor of Poland
- 38 California slugger
- 39 Close with a bang
- 41 Versailles agreement
- 42 Like Roger Rabbit
- 44 UCLA player
- 45 Likewise
- 46 "Caribbean Queen" singer
- 47 Dog in "The Thin Man"
- 48 Fishhook feature
- 49 Uppity one
- 50 A \_\_\_ a dozen
- 52 50 Cent piece?

#### Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

T	I	D	A	L	M	I	S	T	S	T	A	R
A	R	I	S	E	O	B	O	E	P	A	R	A
C	O	M	B	U	S	T	I	O	N	O	P	E
K	N	E	E	C	O	S	T	A	R	R	I	N
S	C	A	R	B	E	T	R	A	I			
P	A	S	T	E	L	S	P	L	A	I		
A	C	C	O	M	P	A	N	I	E	S	G	A
R	E	U	S	E	G	O	T	S	H	A	K	E
E	D	D	T	H	E	R	A	P	E	U	T	I
C	E	A	S	E	A	S	C	E	N	T		
T	H	E	O	R	Y	D	I	S	K			
H	E	A	V	Y	L	A	D	E	N	S	T	A
R	A	V	E	O	N	E	A	T	A	T	I	M
O	V	E	R	F	E	L	L	S	E	V	E	R
B	E	S	T	T	W	I	T	P	R	O	N	E



# I survived campus during break, we can survive for the semester

GRIFFEN SMITH

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I called my mom on Tuesday before spring break knowing she would be upset. She planned to drive from our hometown of Austin, Texas, all the way to Missoula to go skiing, see her old friends and spend some time with her oldest son (me).

"It doesn't look good," I said. "I think it is time to hunker down for a while."

I live in Knowles Hall on the University of Montana campus. It has been my home for the last six months, and despite the cramped rooms and shared bathrooms, I enjoy living here.

I planned to stay in Missoula for the break so I could relax and take a week off. I was not expecting to live through the beginning of a global pandemic, which recorded tens of thousands of cases in the U.S., and new cases daily in Montana.

In my Thursday morning philosophy class, all my classmates received an email detailing our new remote learning program. The original email announced UM would move to remote delivery, and a March 18 email confirmed it would be for the rest of the semester.

The rest of that Thursday blurred, it didn't feel real.

Some of my friends packed up and left campus, my teachers emailed me to tell me how to use the Zoom app, and on top of that, the Food Zoo decided it would be fun to throw a party for ducks amid a global pandemic. Ugh.

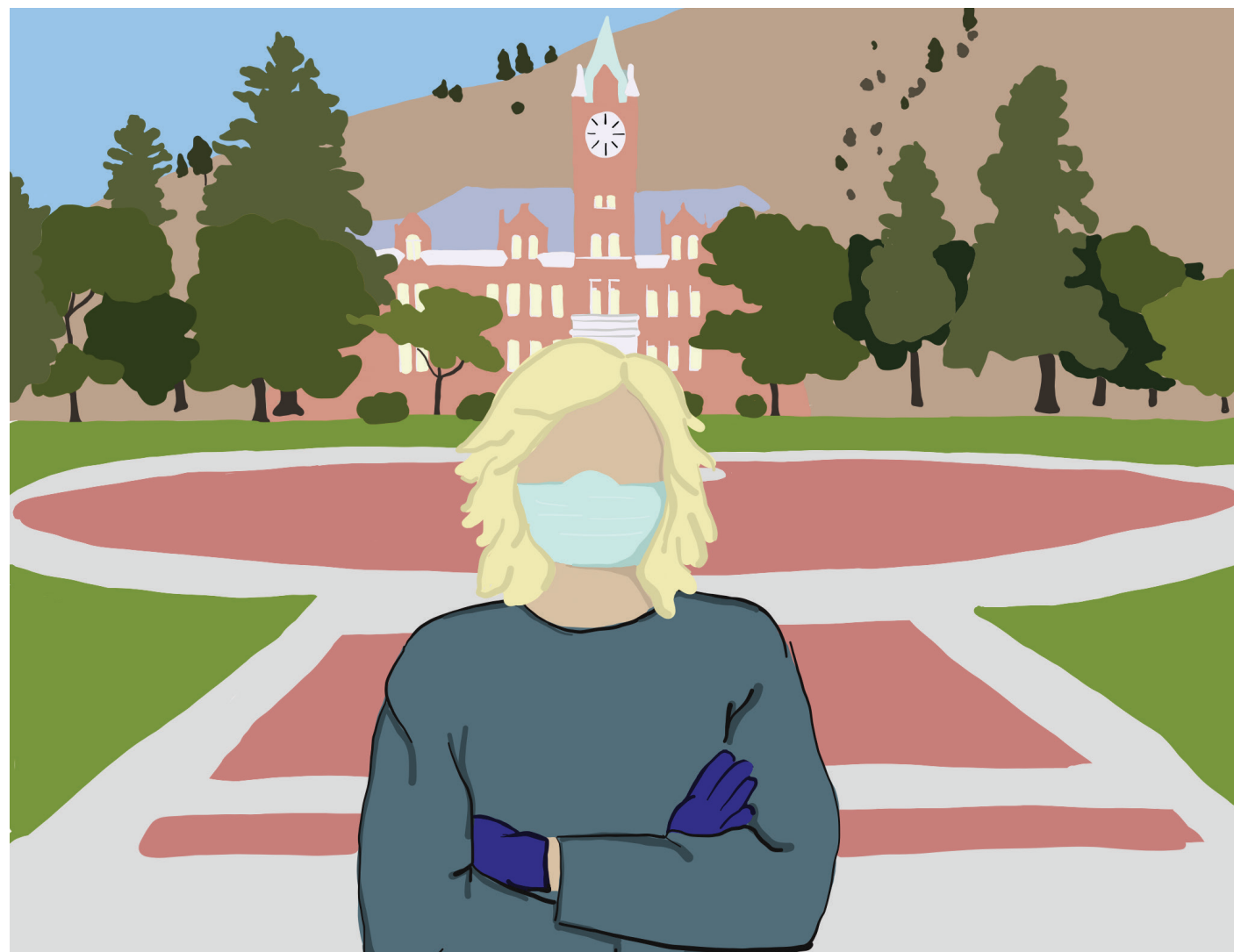
I realized all my break plans were canceled Thursday night, and I was stuck on campus with a lot of free time. It was time to sit back and ride out the impending COVID-19 wave.

I read a fair amount about the coronavirus before it got to the States. Social distancing helped mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in many case studies of Italian towns.

So I cut off some habits. My grandma, who lives in town, takes me out to get food once every couple of weeks. Though she is healthy at age 71, COVID-19 can still ravage a person's respiratory system, so I told her it would be best for me to stay on campus awhile.

Not everyone in Knowles decided to take precautions. A student on my floor, who I am calling TJ, spent his first weekend of the break downtown at the bars.

"Yeah, I let like 20 people hit my PuffBar last night at Stocks," TJ said, grinning as



CONSTANCE DARLINGTON | MONTANA KAIMIN

if he did something really cool. "It doesn't even matter, there aren't even cases in Montana."

When he made that comment on March 14, there were 6 confirmed cases in the state.

It's concerning to me that so many young people don't care about the scope of the virus and how it could destroy our national infrastructures.

Some of my friends back in Texas went to the crowded Gulf of Mexico beaches, where thousands of people interacted with each other despite CDC recommendations to social distance.

Back on campus, the dorms took a small dip into chaos. Skateboards rolled over my head as the third floor practiced tricks

at 2:30 in the morning. Cigarettes became the normal nighttime ritual, and my hands cracked from the cold wind and constant handwashing.

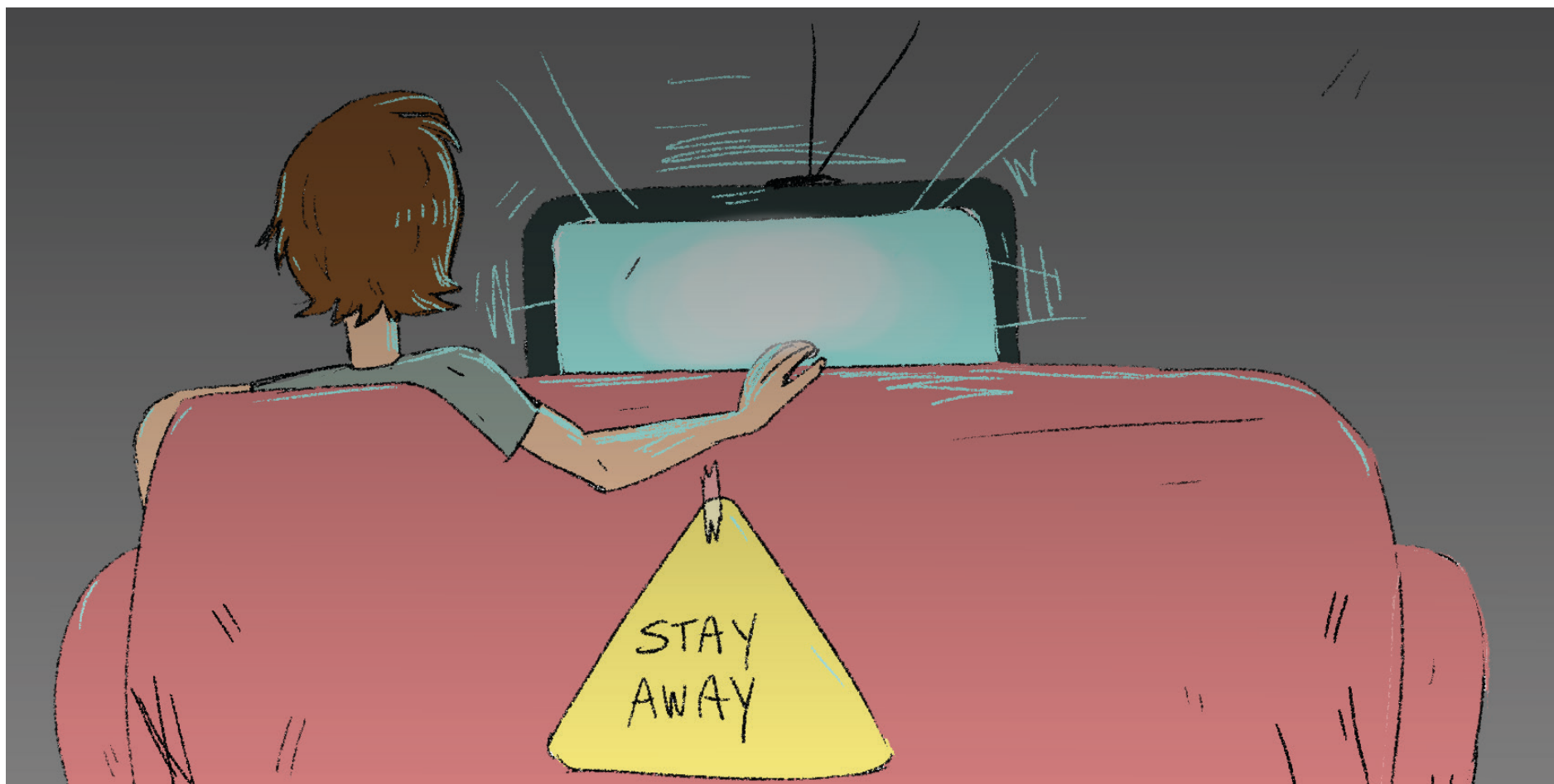
With the Food Zoo closed for the entirety of break, and the UC's limited hours, combined with many restaurants restricting or shutting down, I didn't know what to eat. I went to Albertsons and bought as many frozen dinners that could fit in my dorm fridge, which turned out to be three.

Though I was not eating how I used to, I appreciated that UM did not close. Its facilities and services keep me well, and it is not easy balancing student comfort with a pandemic that can and probably will reach campus.

I plan to stay on campus for the rest of the semester. Texas looms 1,800 miles away, and I could probably live in my old room despite my parents turning it into a home gym. But I still want to work my job at the Kamin, both in writing and delivering the paper to people.

At the end of the week, I've concluded that I was okay, that campus will still support me, and that we must join together to better Missoula and the University of Montana.

Whether you brave the storm on campus or in your home, we can all take action to mitigate the spread of the virus and get UM back to normal operations.



LINDSEY SEWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

# Social distancing isn't an option, it's the solution

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The silence is what really gets you.

That, and the physical act of being alone, is enough to send someone over the edge if they can't reel in the workings of their own mind. The quiet has a power that is unexpected.

Social distancing, known to me as the act of being alone, is one of the most vital things people can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is essential, not optional, no matter what your cousin on Facebook says.

And now that Gov. Bullock has issued a Shelter-in-Place order for the state of Montana, none of us here really has a choice.

Most students at UM are lucky. They have roommates or they can go back to live with their families. The silence may creep in, but it's always temporary.

But I live in a studio apartment, and

social distancing here, entirely alone, is a different beast.

Social distancing isn't a bad thing. I'd rather be physically apart from the people around me than unwittingly infect them with coronavirus. It is a sacrifice, yes. But it is one I would make over and over to keep the people around me safe.

On most days, I love living alone. I love being able to have dance parties for hours or read aloud. I love baking bread in the middle of the night or coming home late and not worrying about waking someone up.

Isolation has never been something that has bothered me. When I spent two months traveling, I did it alone on purpose. I wanted to know myself in a way that I only could if I was by myself.

But now that I am truly isolated, with no way to physically be around other people, things are different. The silence is louder.

If I get lonely, I can't go sit in the Roxy or take myself to a crowded diner. I can't sit on a friend's floor and share a bottle of wine. I can't ask for a hug.

But in this loneliness, I have found other ways to comfort myself. While I am alone, I don't feel like I am suffocating in my own company.

So I stick to a routine. I move my body, even if it's only stretching or dancing through my tiny studio. I eat three meals a day. I am allowing my body to rest.

I bake and I read and I listen. I trust my hands to knead dough. I trust that books bring me comfort. And day after day, there is always new music to listen to.

I am finding joy in things I didn't expect. When my plants grow or there is a particularly beautiful sunset, my heart feels warm and there is a break in the grayness of being alone.

I end each night by reading in my bath

until the water is cold or I am too tired to read another chapter. This brings me so much happiness that I think I'll continue it after this is all over. I never had time to read before, but now I am swimming in it.

I call or Facetime my friends every day. My best friend and I used to always miss each other's calls, but now we talk for hours. I have friends who are willing to sit with me through the silence.

Social distancing may still feel like isolation, but it doesn't scare me anymore. I know that I can find something each day that brings me joy and that is enough to get me out of bed.

And when things adjust, because I don't think they will never truly go back to normal, I'll sit in a crowded movie theater. I'll get dinner with my friends. I'll hold someone's hand. I'll hug and I'll love and I'll go dancing.

And we will continue to be happy.

## Cooking in Quarantine: The college student grocery list

ERIN SARGENT

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If you're like me, then you've probably gotten used to takeout, UberEats or whatever instant meal you can get your hands on during a hectic day. We're busy college students, and we're not always motivated to cook for ourselves. But suddenly our days aren't so busy, and we can't outsource our meals as much as we used to. So it's time to cook at home.

Our Arts & Culture team is ready to share their faves as part of our Cooking in Quarantine series. Whether it's easy dinners or our parents' secret muffin recipe, we want to help you find affordable and simple options for the next few weeks. We hope you enjoy.

Let's talk about grocery shopping on a college student budget. It has always been tricky to find a balance between healthy and affordable, and now, a lot of us are facing more financial issues than we might have before. If grocery shopping is a financial struggle during social distancing, there are still resources available. If you're in Missoula, the University of Montana Food Pantry has grab-and-go non-perishables and hygiene products outside its main door for free. Food pantries in Missoula and elsewhere continue to operate and offer delivery programs.

If grocery shopping is available to you, it can be tricky to decide what sorts of staples you should be buying. These options are great to keep on hand for quick and easy meals in a pinch. Not all of them are necessary, depending on your tastes and budget, but hopefully this can help you write your own grocery list.

Remember that social distancing guidelines still apply while you're shopping. Try to go to the store at a time when it won't be too crowded, like the middle of a workday or late in the evening. Don't buy in bulk. Just don't. Use hand sanitizer, avoid touching your face and wash your hands when you get home.



LINDSEY SEWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

### PANTRY

**Pasta:** Both long and short. Also convenient to keep boxes of easy mac on hand when you're in a pinch.

**Rice:** boxes of stove-cook rice and packages of quick microwave rice are great bases to dinners. Also try couscous or quinoa to switch things up.

**Beans:** keep a couple cans of beans on hand for a quick and cheap beans-and-rice dinner.

**Peanut Butter:** Or any sort of nut butter. Good for snacking.

**Canned soup:** Again, the perfect 5-minute lunch. Fast, cheap and easy.

**Canned fruits and veggies:** Diced tomatoes are a base ingredient in tons of recipes. Also try to keep corn, green beans, olives, pears and oranges.

**Canned fish:** If you're a meat-eater, a few cans of tuna or salmon on hand is never a bad idea.

**Packaged sauce mixes:** Pesto and alfredo packaged mixes are affordable and keep forever.

**Dried fruit, nuts, crackers:** Buy yourself some snacks. You're going to want some snacks.

**Flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, vanilla extract:** If you want to do some baking.

### FRIDGE

**Eggs:** Destroy the idea that eggs are only for breakfast. A veggie scramble is good for any meal.

**(Some) fresh veggies:** Let's face it, it's hard to keep fresh veggies for one person. But if you're feeling inspired, try potatoes, mushrooms, broccoli, carrots or celery.

**Minced garlic:** Instantly makes most meals better.

**Canned olives, pickles, capers:** Is this just a "me" thing? These are all great additions to most pastas.

**Shredded cheese:** Some cheddar. Some parmesan. Can't go wrong.

**Butter:** For bread. For baking. For most things.

### FREEZER

**Frozen veggies:** You can buy bags of carrots, peas and corn that cook in the microwave. Game changer.

**Frozen fruit:** If you love a good smoothie.

**Chicken and ground beef:** If you're a meat-eater, storing chicken or ground beef in the freezer means that you will always have chicken or ground beef when you need it.

**Pizza:** Buy yourself a frozen pizza or two. Save it for a lazy day.



# Cooking in Quarantine: Four-ingredient comfort pasta

AUSTIN AMESTOY  
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It's day 13. The Food Zoo's gourmet (?) delights are but a distant memory. Your parents' pantry looks increasingly bare as the entire family stockpiles rations in their closets — you can't trust anyone these days.

But if there's two cans of Italian-style diced tomatoes, chopped olives, a box of noodles and a couple chicken breasts left behind, I've got good news for you: you're just 20 minutes away from culinary paradise.

Our brave new world has piled on the hardships, not the least of which is figuring out what to eat. With most restaurants shut down, our options are limited.

In the spirit of adventure, I busted out mom's old recipe for the easiest pasta you can imagine — almost no cooking qualifications required.

The cookware list is pretty basic: one medium-sized pot for the noodles, a pan for the chicken, a chef's knife, a spatula, a strainer and a can-opener.

## BOWTIE CHICKEN PASTA

2 cans diced tomatoes  
1 can sliced black olives  
8 oz. bowtie pasta  
2 chicken breasts, chopped  
Optional: 1 green pepper, chopped  
Optional: Italian seasoning, Lawry's seasoned salt and garlic, to taste

Fill the pot  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with water and bring it to a boil. Feel free to add some olive oil and salt, too — they can make for better noodles.

While your water's heating up, cut the chicken breasts into about 1-inch cubes. If you have that bell pepper, dice it small and set it aside.

As your noodles cook, place the chicken in the pan and set the burner to high. Cook until no pink remains. Feel free to season with some Lawry's seasoned salt and a bit of minced garlic at this point.

Just before you think the chicken's done, add the (optional) green peppers and stir. You'll want to cook them for just a couple minutes—we don't want soggy greens.

Add the two cans of diced tomatoes and the chopped olives to the chicken and peppers and stir until well-mixed. Turn



the burner down to medium and let the sauce warm. Now's the time for the Italian seasoning and a bit more garlic, if you have them.

As for the noodles, cook until you try one and it's just slightly firm. Also, noodle life hack: when you drain them, rinse them with cold water! That will completely stop the cooking process and prevent mushiness.

Pour the contents of the pan into the pot with the noodles and mix thoroughly. You may want to keep the mix on warm to allow the now-cold noodles some time to adjust.

And there you have it—as my family calls it, “bowtie chicken pasta.” With just four main ingredients, it's not going to flavorfully transport that dour food critic from “Ratatouille” to the fond memories of his childhood, but it's a comfort food that's kept my spirits high as I ride out the lockdown in my Missoula basement.

Bon appétit!



AUSTIN AMESTOY | MONTANA KAIMIN



## UM football players find creative ways to work out in quarantine

JACK MARSHALL

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UM football player Braydon Deming pushed a white pickup truck through a quiet neighborhood in his hometown of Billings on March 24, while his dad sat at the wheel.

"Drive it. Drive it. Finish it. Finish it," Braydon's friend Nathan Dick yelled as Braydon pushed the truck. Dick is currently a quarterback at Rocky Mountain University in Billings. He also took part in the truck-pushing workout.

The twins moved back home to Billings after UM canceled in-person classes and then football practice because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Once returning home, Braydon Deming and his twin Bryson Deming bounced around to different gyms in Billings before they eventually closed too.

Once the gyms were closed, the brothers began to find their own creative ways to work out.

"We kind of ran out of accessories to use in weight rooms and stuff," Braydon said about pushing the truck. "That idea was one that could be a good leg workout."

Bryson and Braydon both attended Billings West High School before they committed to UM. Bryson was first-team All-Conference quarterback for Billings West in 2016, but he now plays tight end for the Griz. He played in a total of 25 games for UM and caught three touchdowns while racking up 335 total receiving yards.

Braydon was a first-team All-State tight end and linebacker for Billings West, but he now plays defensive end at UM. In his first year of college, he was named the Co-Defensive Scout Team Player of the Year. He appeared in 23 games for the Griz, totaling 35 tackles, 3.5 sacks and a forced fumble.

UM head football coach Bobby Hauck said he was disappointed the team wasn't able to do spring practices.

"Unless they have their own weight room, there's nowhere to workout," he said. "Doing pushups doesn't replace training."

Hauck said the last time he remembers football practices being canceled was when forest fires pumped smoke into Missoula in 2015. Despite the smoke, UM was able to start the 2015 season on time and upset North Dakota State 38-35.

Even though Hauck was upset that the players have to resort to pushups as a replacement for practices and workouts, he concluded, "We have great work ethic, and



University of Montana redshirt sophomore tight end Bryson Deming out-sprints an Idaho State defender in the second quarter of the Griz's homecoming game at Washington Grizzly Stadium, Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019. The Griz held off their opponents winning, 59-20. **DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN**

our guys will do anything they can to make Montana football great."

UM kicker Gabe Peppenger also got creative with his offseason workouts. In a Twitter video, Peppenger was doing squats and lunges with a deer hunting dummy held over his shoulders.

"Times are tough man," he said after completing the workout.

Peppenger attended Sentinel High School in Missoula before he committed to Montana State in 2016. He played two seasons at MSU before he transferred to UM in 2018. After former starting kicker Bradon Purdy left UM after 2019, Peppenger became the

lone upperclassman kicker coming into 2020.

UM sophomore linebacker Braxton Hill could also be seen working out by doing pushups on the front lawn of his house in the University District of Missoula.

Hill joined UM's football team after graduating from Anaconda High School where he broke the school's record for scoring in basketball. Prior to breaking basketball records, he racked up 31 tackles during his senior football season before being injured.

He appeared in 10 games for the Griz, where he totaled five tackles.

On March 12, the Big Sky Conference

canceled its basketball tournament and suspended all spring athletics. The UM football spring game, which was set to take place in Hamilton on April 10, was canceled on March 16.

Prior to the spring game's cancellation, UM announced it would be closing football practices to the media over fears of COVID-19. On March 23, the Big Sky Conference canceled all athletic activities and practices.

"As of today as we sit, it will not be before May 15," UM athletic director Kent Haslam replied when asked when practices might resume.